



Michael Turner Presents

# ASPEN

#1

OF 2  
COVER A

MICHAEL  
TURNER

*Plot*





Fathom Created by  
Michael Turner

## Issue One of Two



GEOFF JOHNS  
writer

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PETER STEIGERWALD  
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WATER IS LIFE.

IT IS WHERE ALL LIFE BEGAN.  
WHERE MY LIFE BEGAN.



MY LIFE.





I HAVE ALWAYS  
BEEN FASCINATED  
BY THE OCEANS.

GROWING UP, MY ADOPTIVE  
FATHER TOOK ME TO EVERY  
MARINE BIOLOGIST IN  
THE SAN DIEGO AREA. IT  
WAS THE ONLY TIME THAT  
THIS SHY LITTLE GIRL  
WOULD REALLY SPEAK.

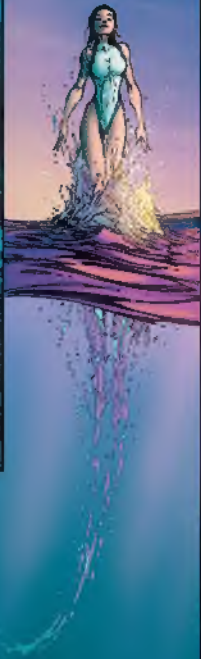
ASK QUESTION  
AFTER QUESTION.

I COULDN'T TALK  
WITH THEM ENOUGH--

--SO I BECAME ONE MYSELF.  
TOP OF MY CLASS, TOO. I WAS  
EVEN OFFERED ACCESS TO THE  
GOVERNMENT'S SECRET  
UNDERSEA OPERATIONS.

I THOUGHT I WAS ON THE RIGHT  
TRACK-- UNTIL SOMEONE TOLD ME  
I "WASN'T NUMAN." I WAS--

--"OF THE WATER."



BORN IN A WORLD NO ONE  
KNOWS EXISTS, A HIDDEN RACE  
LIVING IN THE OCEANS, THEY  
CALL THEMSELVES THE BLUE.



BUT I WAS DIFFERENT  
THAN EVEN THE BLUE, NOT  
JUST BECAUSE OF WHERE  
I WAS RAISED--

--BUT BECAUSE OF  
WHAT I COULD DO.

THERE WERE NO  
WAVES THIS MORNING.



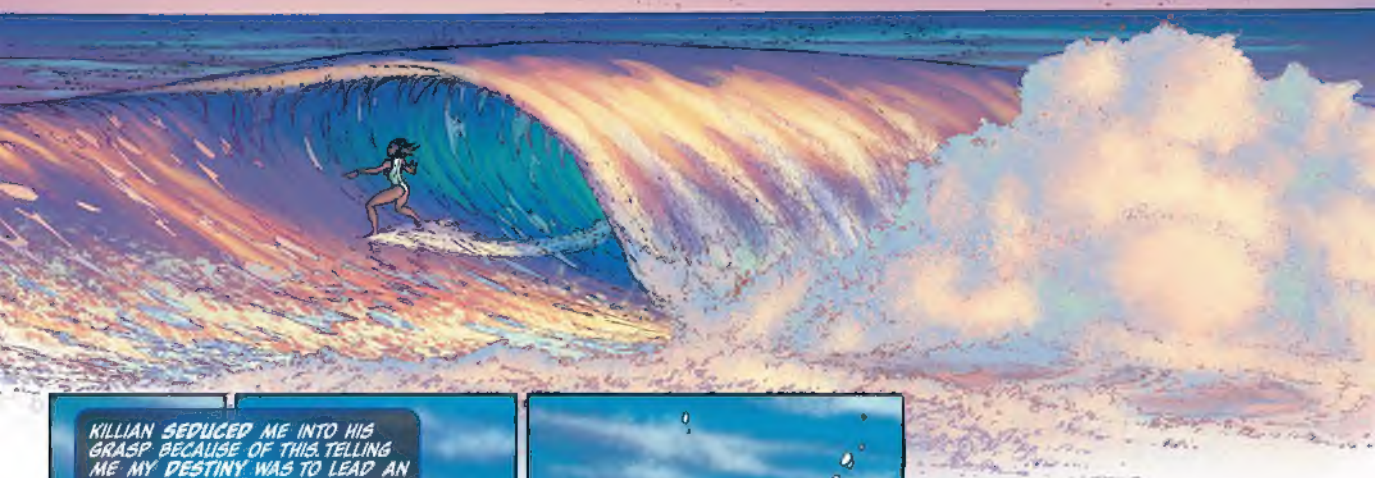
I WANTED TO  
GO SURFING.



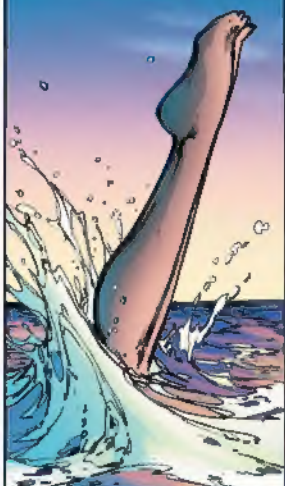
SO I MADE SOME.



I CAN MOVE WATER WITH  
A THOUGHT. I CAN BECOME  
WATER WITH ANOTHER.

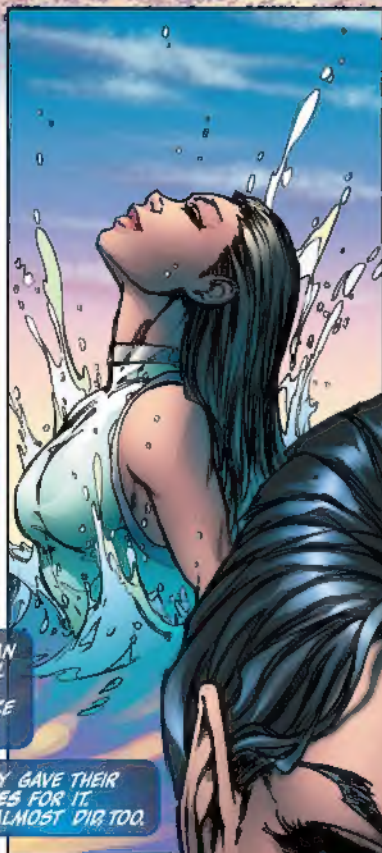


KILLIAN SEDUCED ME INTO HIS  
GRASP BECAUSE OF THIS TELLING  
ME MY DESTINY WAS TO LEAD AN  
ATTACK ON THE SURFACE WORLD.



BUT THE TRUTH IS-- KILLIAN  
MURDERED MY BIOLOGICAL  
PARENTS, AND MY PARENTS  
WANTED NOTHING BUT PEACE  
BETWEEN MY TWO WORLDS.

THEY GAVE THEIR  
LIVES FOR IT.  
I ALMOST DID TOO.



I KNOW WHERE  
I COME FROM.

I KNOW  
WHO I AM.





AND I'M READY  
FOR WHATEVER  
TOMORROW BRINGS.









WATER IS LIFE.



BUT THAT HAS  
BEEN FORGOTTEN.

IGNORER

THE WATERS SHOULD  
BE RESPECTED

AND IF NOT  
RESPECTED-- FEARER







THE FIRST WORLD  
THE DEEP SEA.

THE BLACK.

IT HAS BEEN EONS  
SINCE I HAVE  
TASTED THE AIR,  
BUT NOW...

SPOILED LIKE  
OUR SURFACE  
WATERS POISONED  
AND DISCARDED

NO MORE

THIS NEW DAY WILL  
NOT BE AN EASY ONE.

BALANCE  
MUST BE  
RESTORED.

WATER IS LIFE.





*BUT WATER CAN  
ALSO BE DEATH.*



BLACK

I AM SURROUNDED BY IT.

EVERYTHING BEFORE I TURNED  
ELEVEN. BEFORE I WAS FOUND  
ON THAT SHIP.

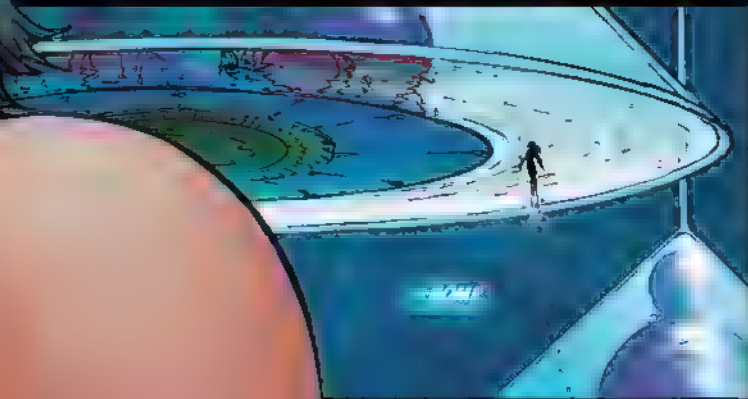
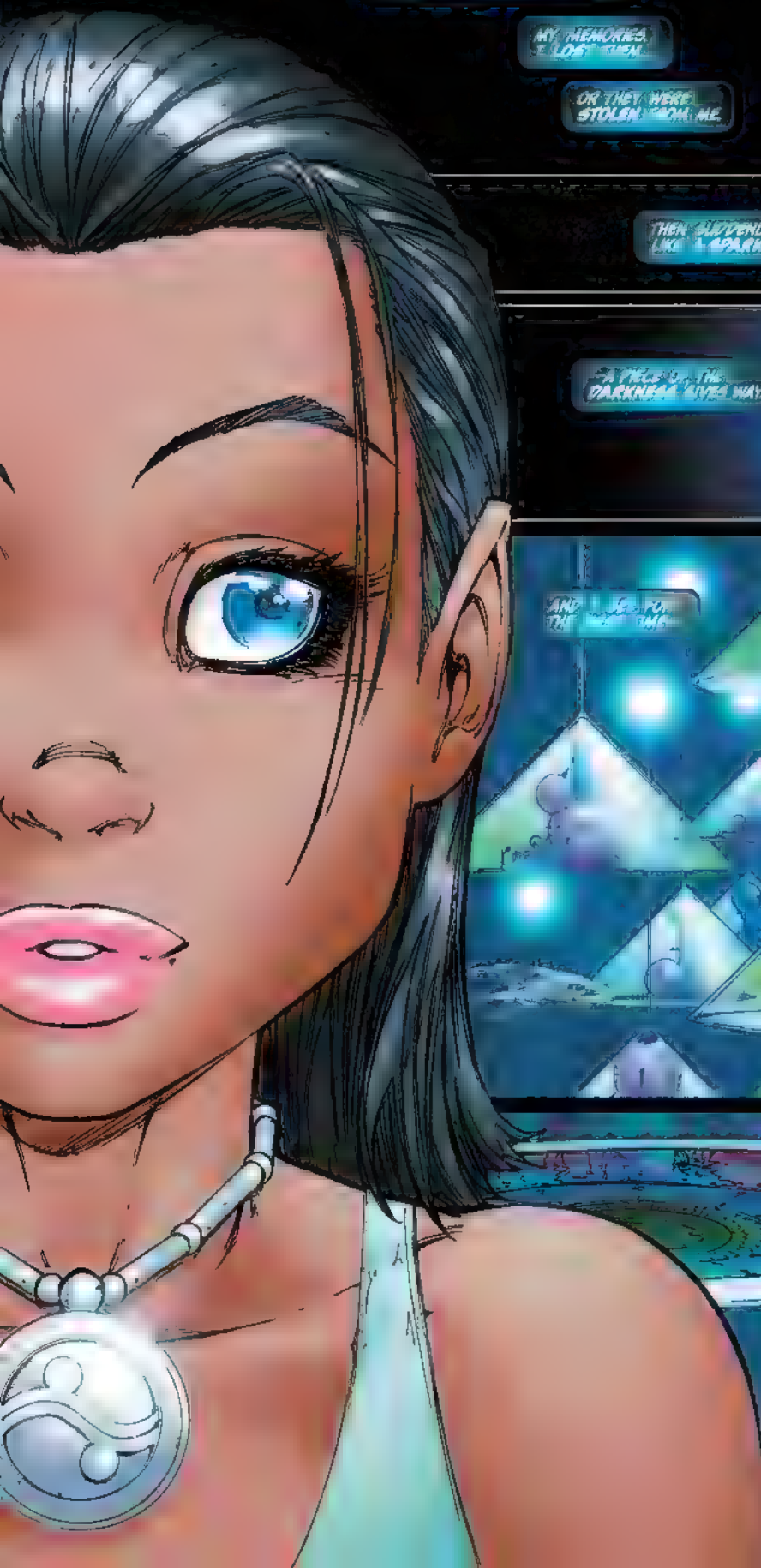
MY MEMORIES  
I LOST THEM.

OR THEY WERE  
STOLEN FROM ME.

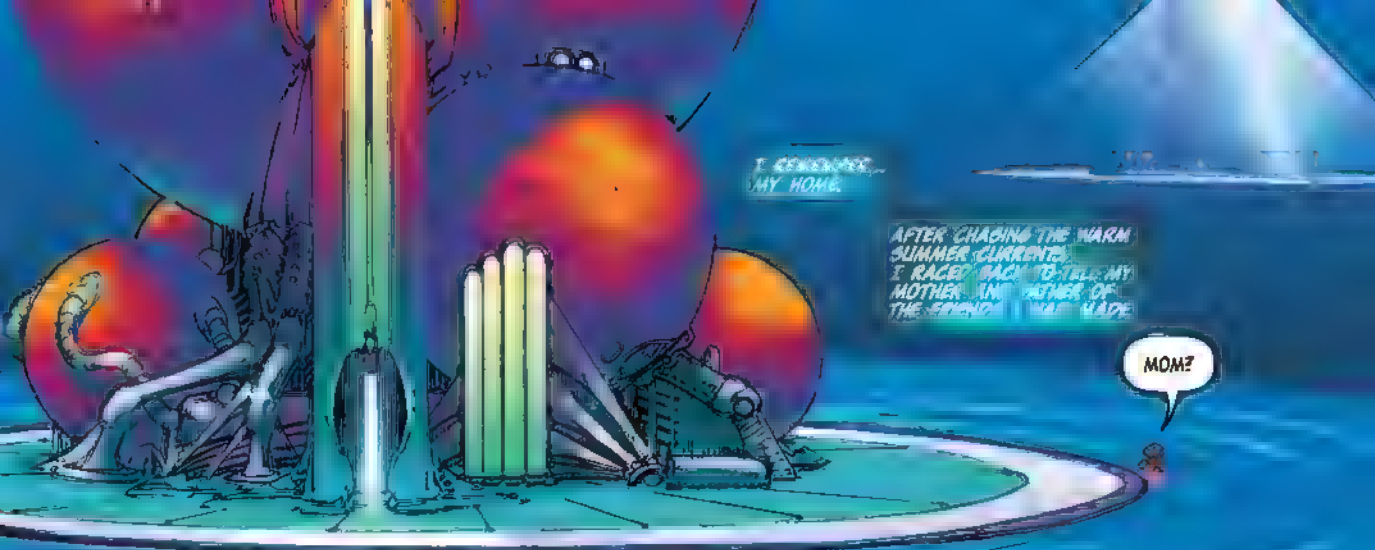
THEN SUDDENLY  
LIKE A SPARK—

A PIECE OF THE  
DARKNESS MILES AWAY.

AND THE DARKNESS  
WAS THERE.



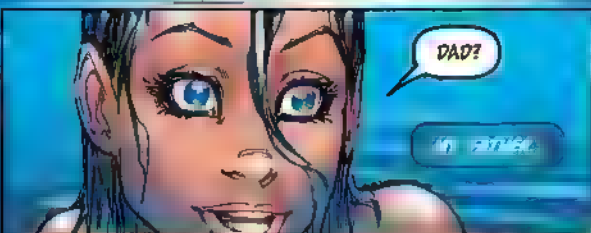




I REMEMBER  
MY HOME.

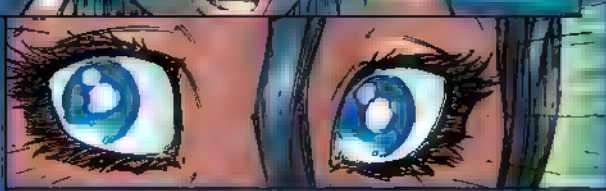
AFTER CHASING THE WARM  
SUMMER CURRENTS,  
I RACED BACK TO TELL MY  
MOTHER AND FATHER OF  
THE FRIEND I HAD MADE.

MOM?



DAD?

IN DISTANCE



THIS IS  
NOT HER  
DESTINY.

YOU ARE  
RIGHT.

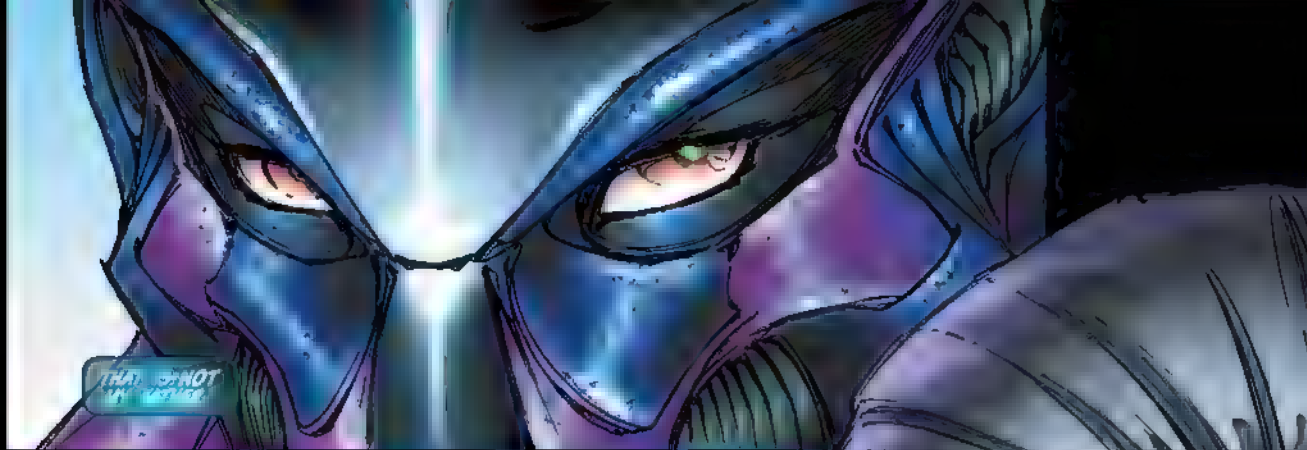
THIS IS OUR  
PEOPLE'S DESTINY.  
IT MUST BE  
DONE.

THE LANGUAGE TURNING  
MY EARS HAVE NOT  
HEARD.

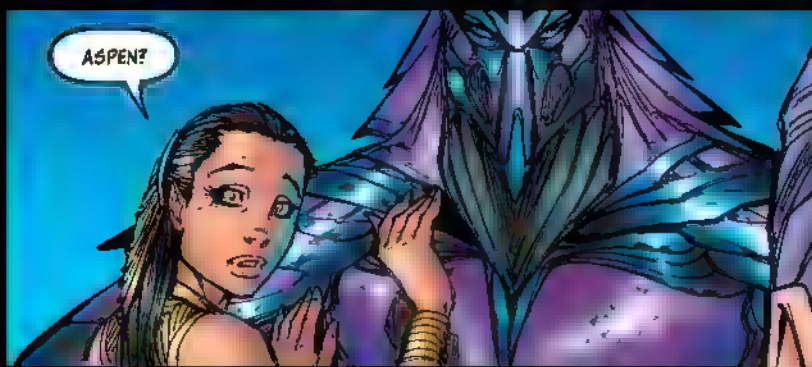
—TODAY.







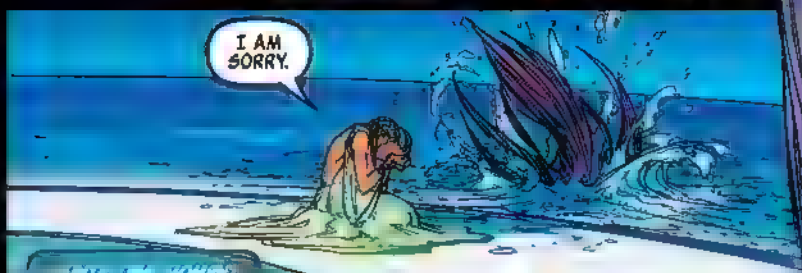
THAT IS NOT  
MY NAME



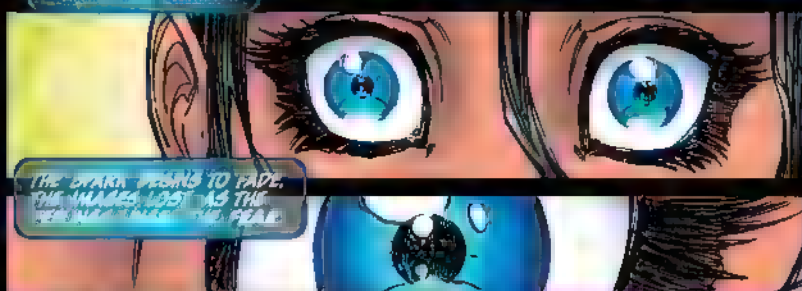
ASPEN?



HER VOICE... THE VOICE...  
THE VOICE... ALWAYS...  
THE VOICE... ALWAYS...  
THE VOICE... ALWAYS...



I AM  
SORRY.



UNTIL THE MOMENT.

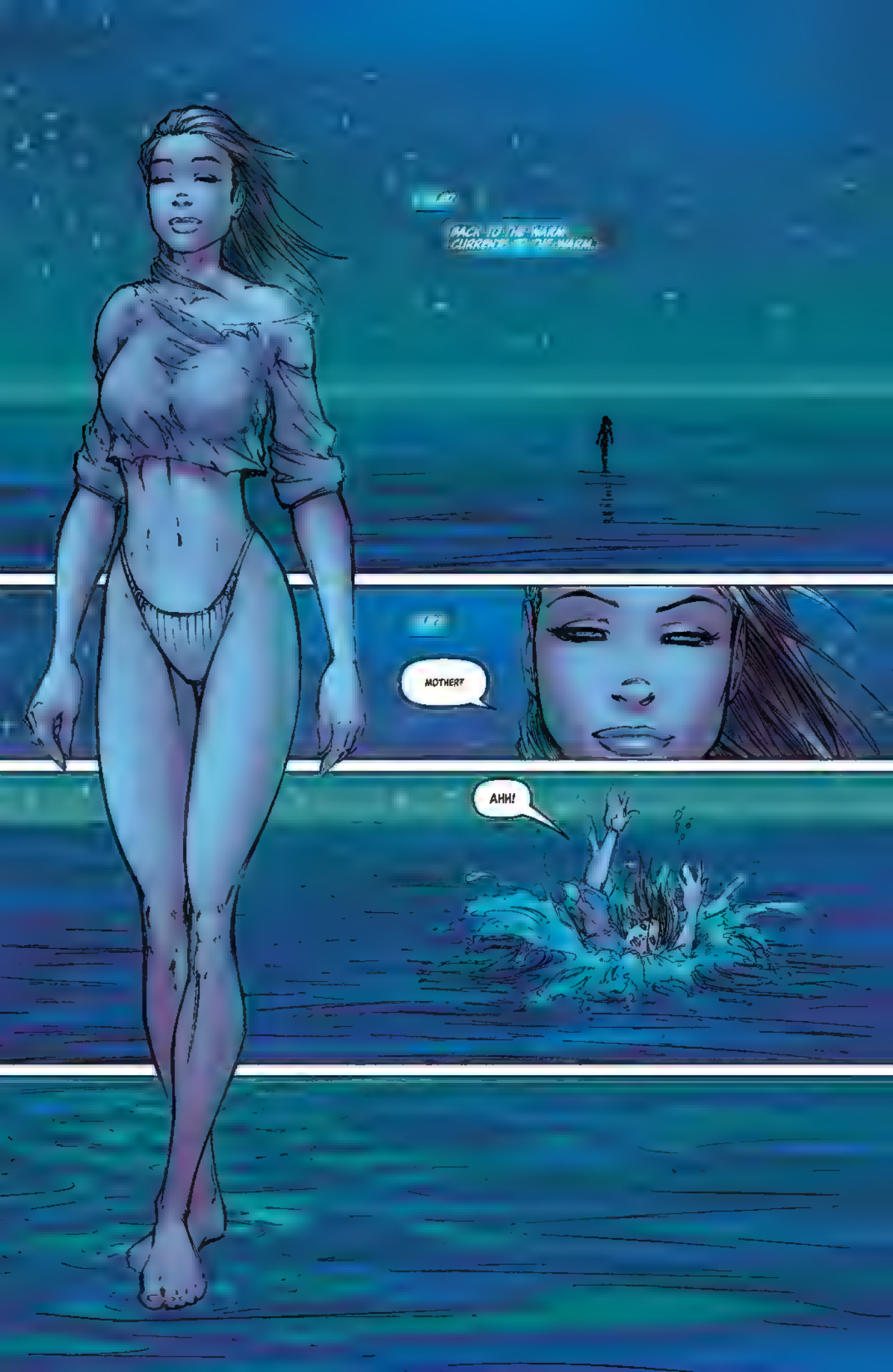
THE DARKNESS TO FATE,  
THE WINDS, LOST AS THE  
THE DARKNESS TO FATE.



THE DARK RETURNS  
TAKING OVER.

THE DARK RETURNS  
TAKING OVER.



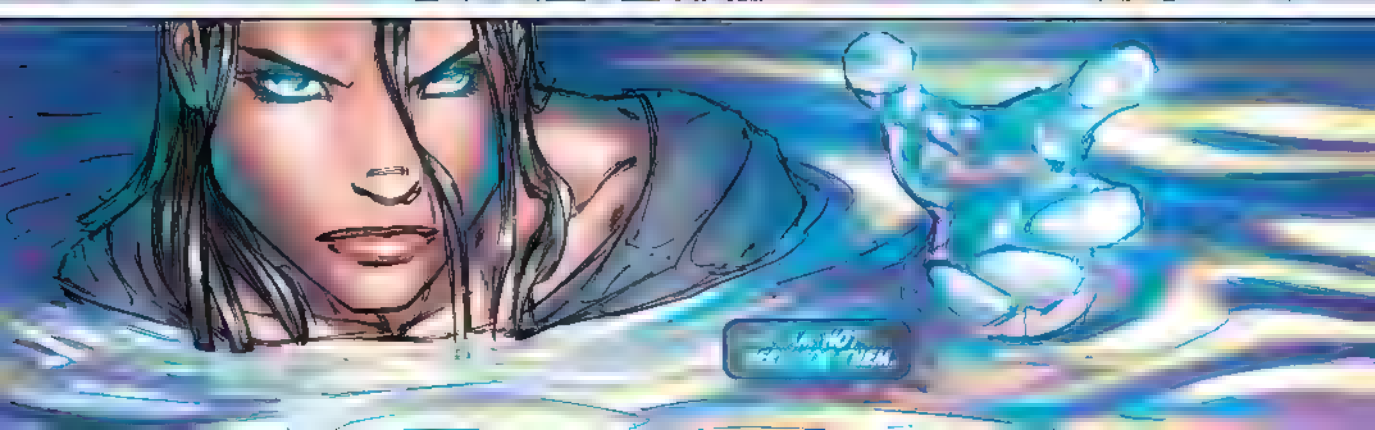
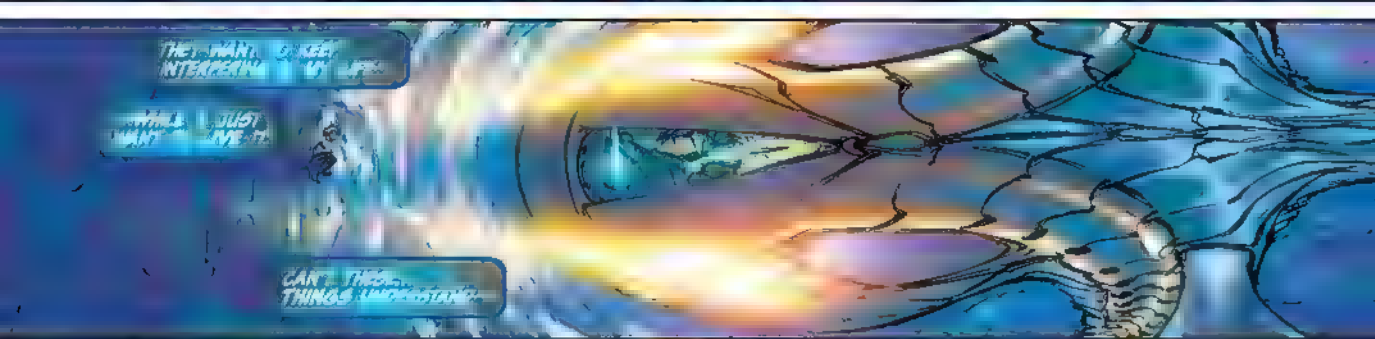
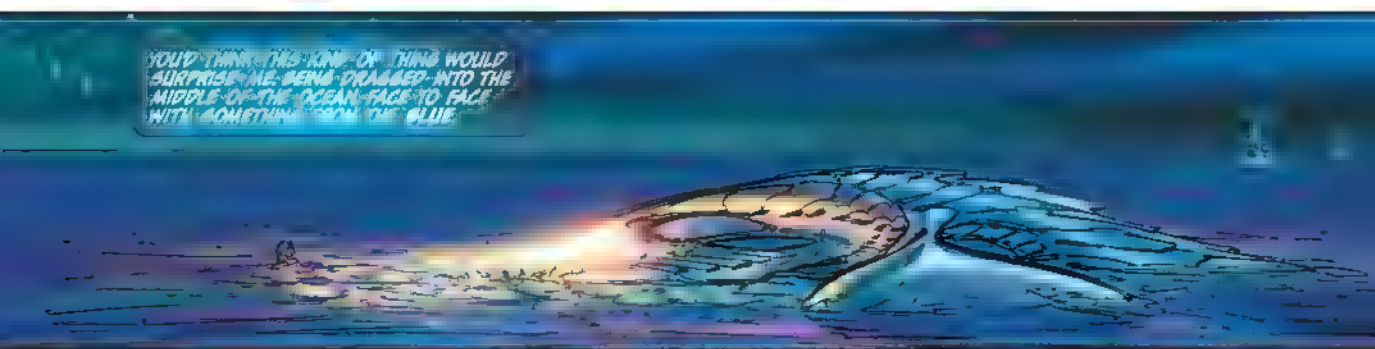
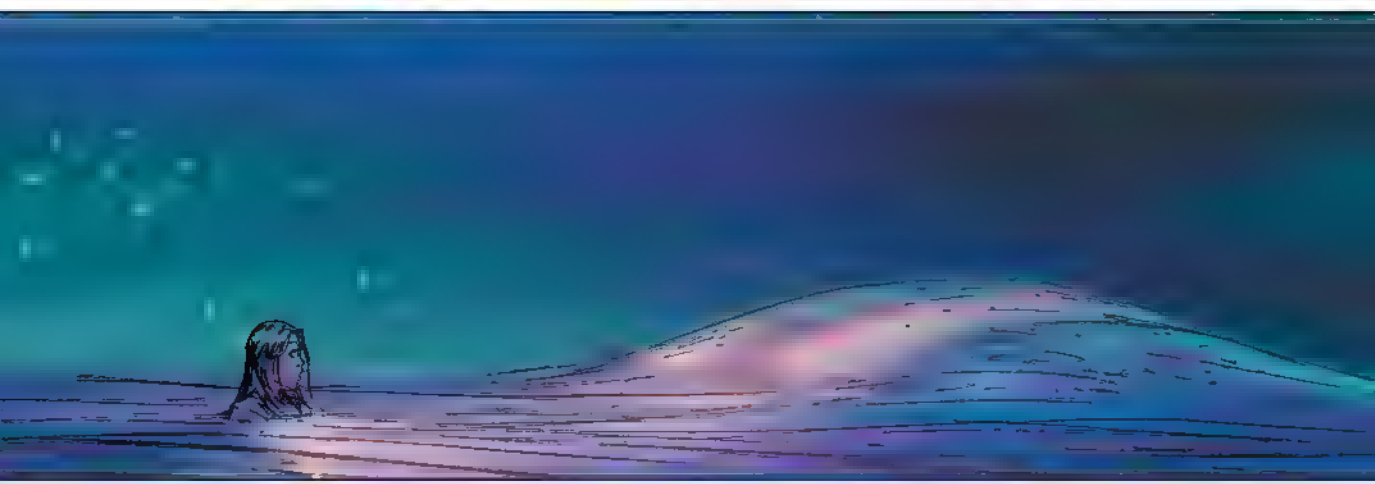


BACK TO THE WARM  
CURRENTS TO THE WARM

MOTHER?

AHH!





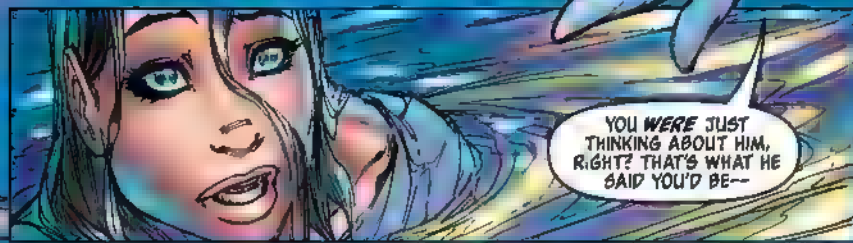




I'M SUPPOSED  
TO TELL YOU--

--COME WITH  
ME IF YOU WANT TO  
LEARN MORE ABOUT  
YOUR FATHER.

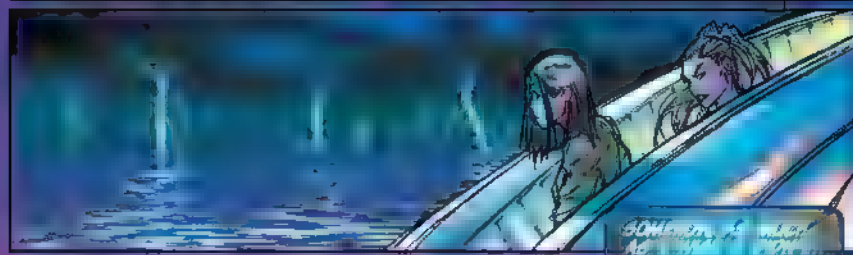
MY FATHER?



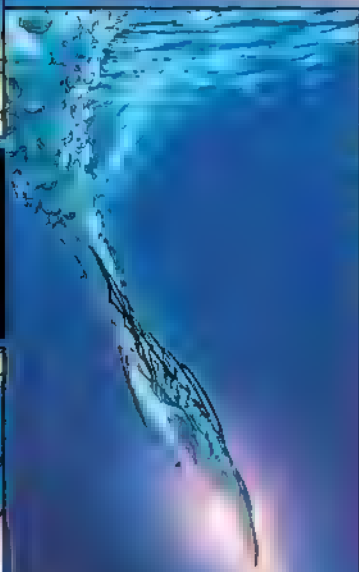
YOU *WERE* JUST  
THINKING ABOUT HIM,  
RIGHT? THAT'S WHAT HE  
SAID YOU'D BE--



FORGET IT.  
WE NEED TO  
MOVE *NOW*.



SOMEONE'S  
IN THE BOAT



THEY'RE  
IN THE BOAT





ADMIRAL, YOU  
MAY WANT TO  
RETHINK THIS.



YOU'RE  
STIRRING UP A  
HORNET'S NEST  
WITH YOUR...  
PROGRAM.

AND IF THE  
PRESIDENT GETS  
WORD OF--

THE *PRESIDENT*  
WILL *NOT* DOCTOR  
GARRISON.



OUR LITTLE  
PROJECT--

-- IS *OUTSIDE* HIS  
JURISDICTION.

YOU NEED TO  
*UNDERSTAND* I DON'T  
DO THIS BECAUSE I *LIKE*  
IT. I DO IT BECAUSE  
I BELIEVE IN THE *RED*,  
*WHITE*, AND *BLUE*.

I DO IT BECAUSE  
MY *FATHER* GAVE HIS  
LIFE TO *PROTECT* OUR  
COUNTRY FROM OUTSIDE  
FORCES THAT EVEN TODAY  
*THREATEN* TO TEAR  
IT APART.

YOU'VE SEEN WHAT  
HAPPENS WHEN THIS  
COUNTRY *RESTS* ON  
ITS *LAURELS*--

--I'M SEEING TO IT  
THAT WE *NEVER* DO  
AGAIN.

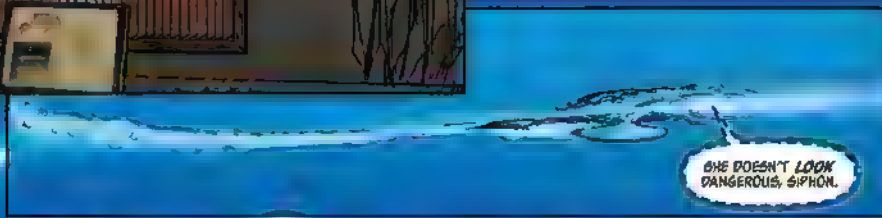






YES.

SIR, WE... WE HAVE A BIG PROBLEM.



SHE DOESN'T LOOK DANGEROUS, SYPHON.



THE BEST OF THEM NEVER DO, GRANDE.

LOOK AT KIANI.



QUIET, BOYS.

I'M PICKING UP SOME STRANGE FLUCTUATIONS IN THE--

WHAT'S GOING ON?

SHUT UP AND LISTEN. I'M TUNING IN TO YOUR LAND BROADCASTS.

--INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM WITH REPORTS THROUGHOUT THE STATES OF MICHIGAN, OHIO, ILLINOIS, MINNESOTA, AND--

--RIVERS, STREAMS, LAKES... ALL DRAINING INTO THE GROUND WE CAN'T EXPLAIN--

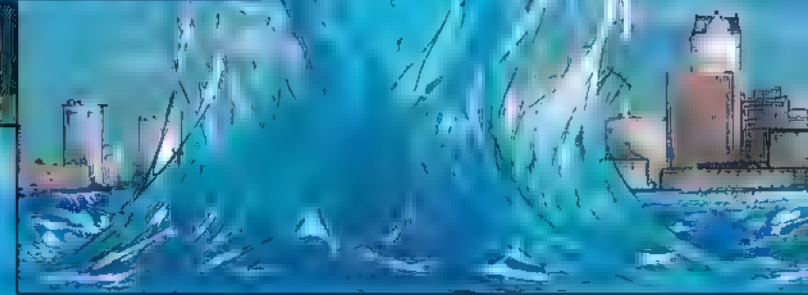
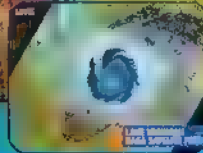
--MY GOD SEVERAL SHIPS HAVE JUST CAPSIZED IN THE HARBORS OF--



COMPUTER ENHANCED SATELLITE IMAGE

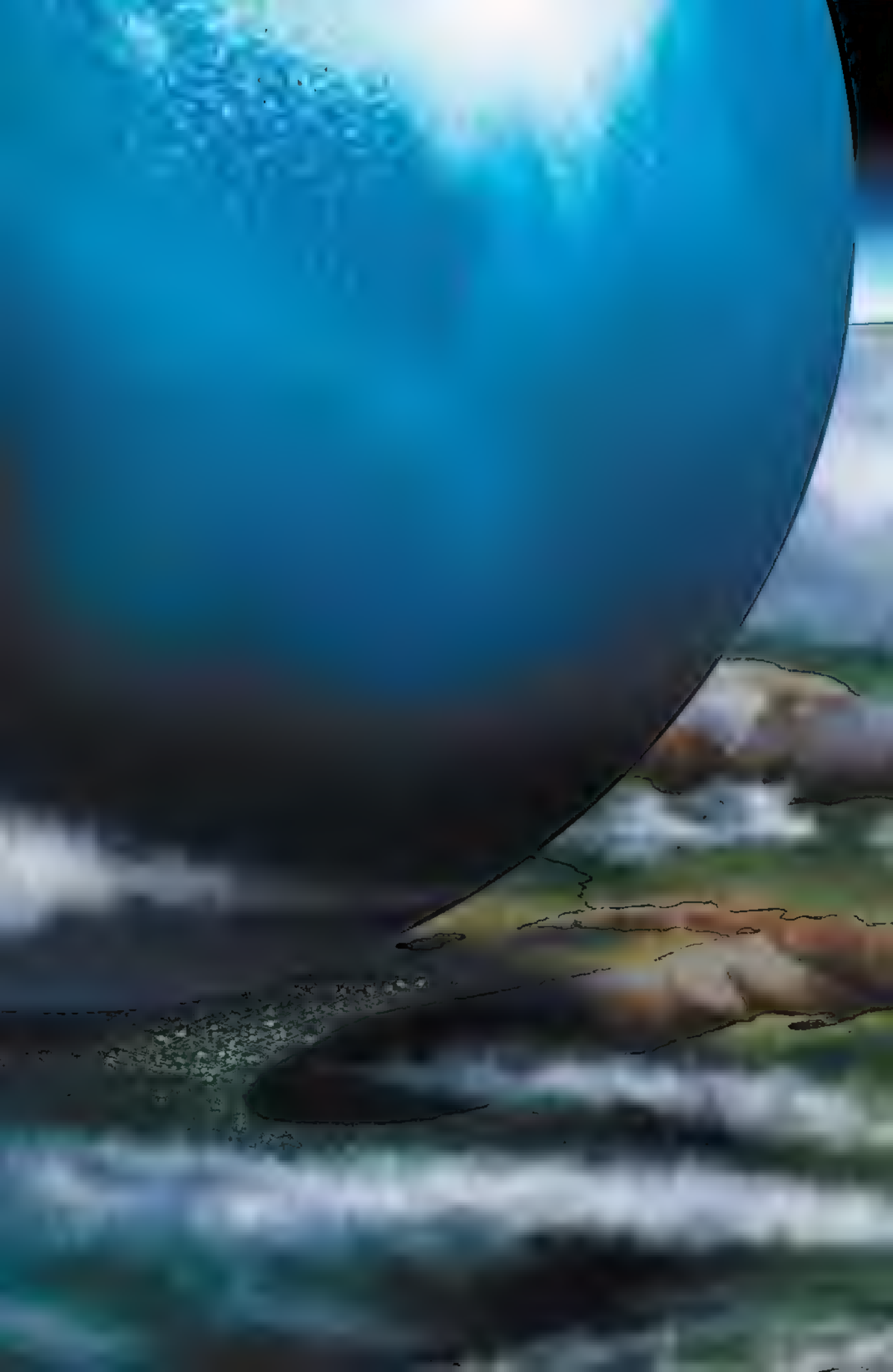
—ASKED NOT  
TO PANIC—

—PEOPLE ALONG  
THE BEACHES JUST  
GOT DRAGGED  
RIGHT INTO—



—WE GO  
LIVE TO—







...

WE ARE  
EXPERIENCING  
TECHNICAL  
DIFFICULTIES.

PLEASE  
STAND BY.

*To Be Continued...*





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#2

OF 2

COVER A





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## Issue Two of Two



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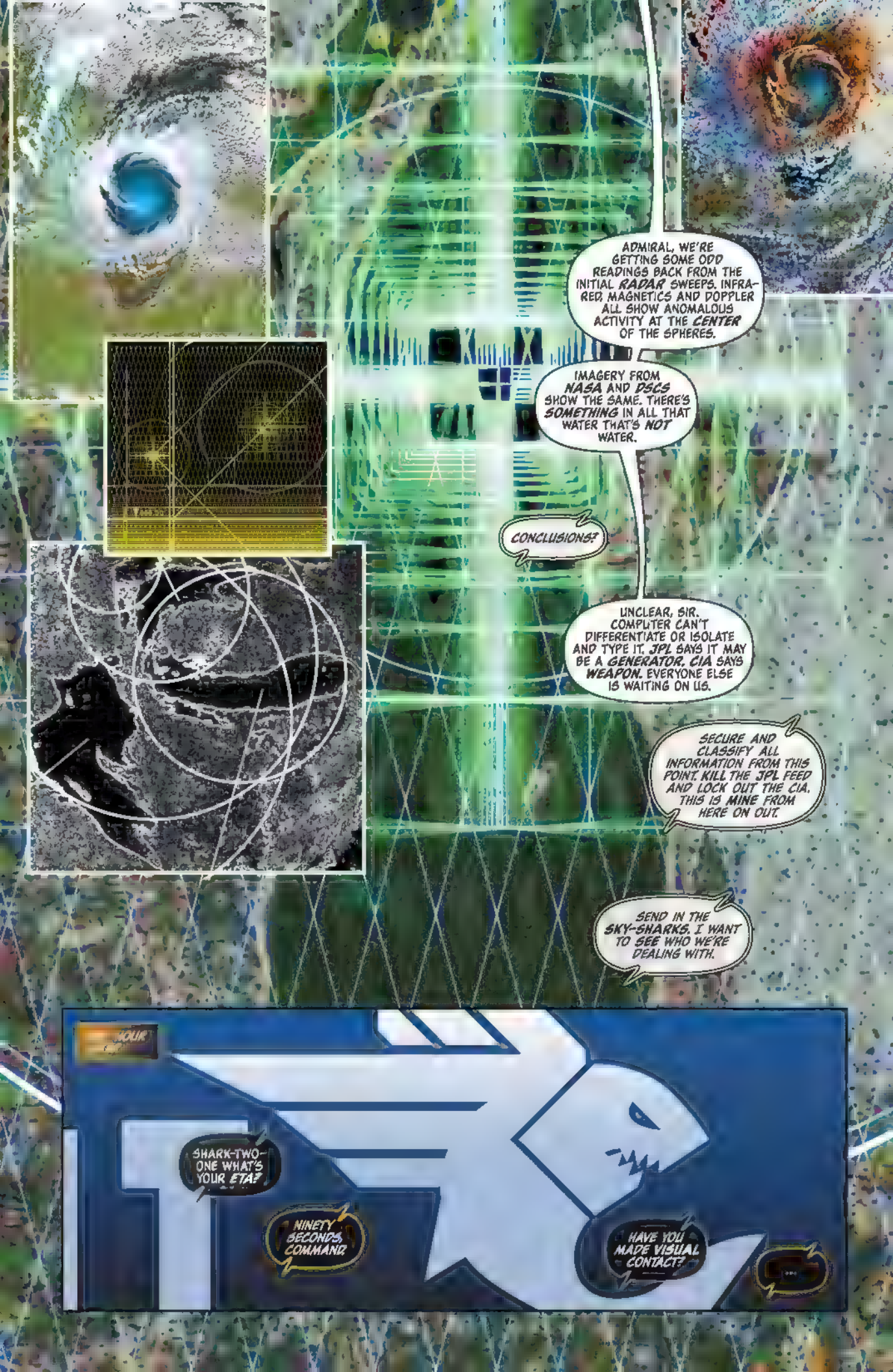
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ADMIRAL, WE'RE  
GETTING SOME ODD  
READINGS BACK FROM THE  
INITIAL **RADAR** SWEEPS. **INFR-**  
**RED**, **MAGNETICS** AND **DOPPLER**  
ALL SHOW ANOMALOUS  
ACTIVITY AT THE **CENTER**  
OF THE **SPHERES**.

IMAGERY FROM  
**NASA** AND **DSCS**  
SHOW THE SAME. THERE'S  
**SOMETHING** IN ALL THAT  
WATER THAT'S **NOT**  
WATER.

CONCLUSIONS?

UNCLEAR, SIR.  
COMPUTER CAN'T  
DIFFERENTIATE OR ISOLATE  
AND TYPE IT. **JPL** SAYS IT MAY  
BE A **GENERATOR**. **CIA** SAYS  
**WEAPON**. EVERYONE ELSE  
IS WAITING ON US.

**SECURE** AND  
**CLASSIFY** ALL  
INFORMATION FROM THIS  
POINT. **KILL** THE **JPL** FEED  
AND **LOCK** OUT THE **CIA**.  
THIS IS **MINE** FROM  
HERE ON OUT.

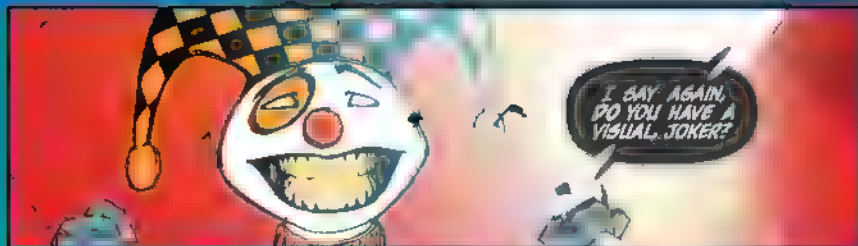
**SEND** IN THE  
**SKY-SHARKS**. I WANT  
TO SEE WHO WE'RE  
DEALING WITH.

SHARK-TWO-  
ONE WHAT'S  
YOUR ETA?

NINETY  
SECONDS  
COMMAND

HAVE YOU  
MADE VISUAL  
CONTACT?

G



I SAY AGAIN,  
DO YOU HAVE A  
VISUAL, JOKER?



DO I HAVE  
A VISUAL?



ARE YOU  
KIDDING  
ME?



NOTE:

REMEMBER, JOKER,  
THIS IS SIMPLY RECON. SAT  
IMAGES SHOW... SOMETHING  
WITHIN THE CENTER OF EACH  
SPHERE YOU GET IN, YOU TAKE  
A PICTURE YOU GET OUT.

NO  
ARGUMENTS HERE  
COMMAND

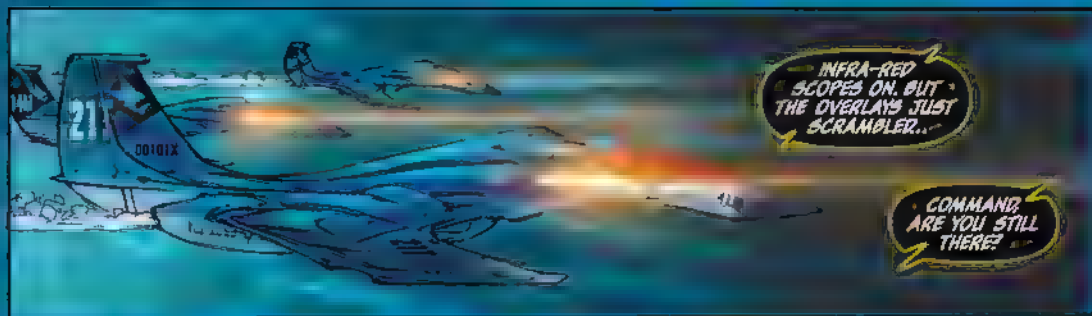
HOW THE  
HELL WE LET  
YOU TALK US  
INTO THIS

YOU AND BIG BIRD  
WERE THE ONLY TWO  
PILOTS IN FLIGHT SCHOOL  
THAT COULD KEEP UP  
COTTON.

YOU ACT AS IF  
YOU WON EVERY  
RACE, JOKER.

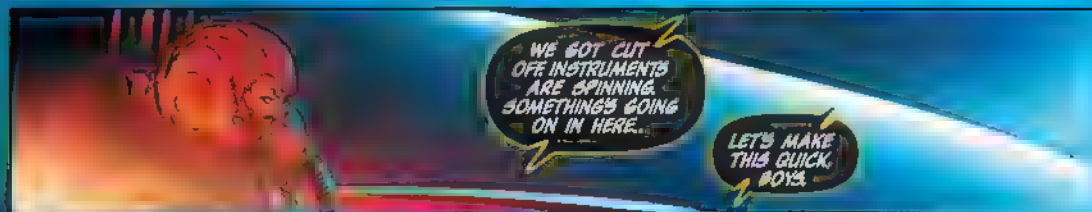
I DIR!





INFRA-RED  
SCOPES ON, BUT  
THE OVERLAYS JUST  
SCRAMBLER...

COMMAND,  
ARE YOU STILL  
THERE?



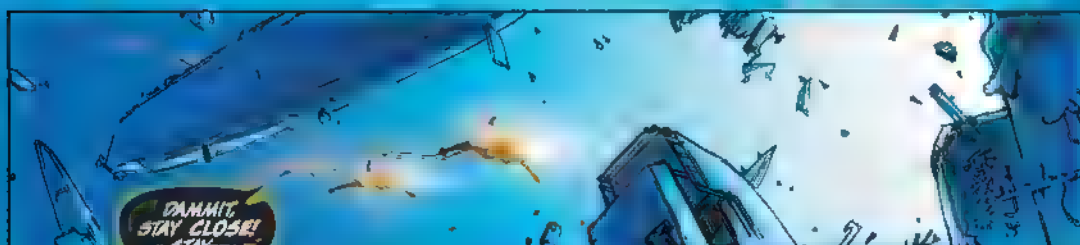
WE GOT CUT  
OFF INSTRUMENTS  
ARE SPINNING.  
SOMETHING'S GOING  
ON IN HERE...

LET'S MAKE  
THIS QUICK,  
BOYS.

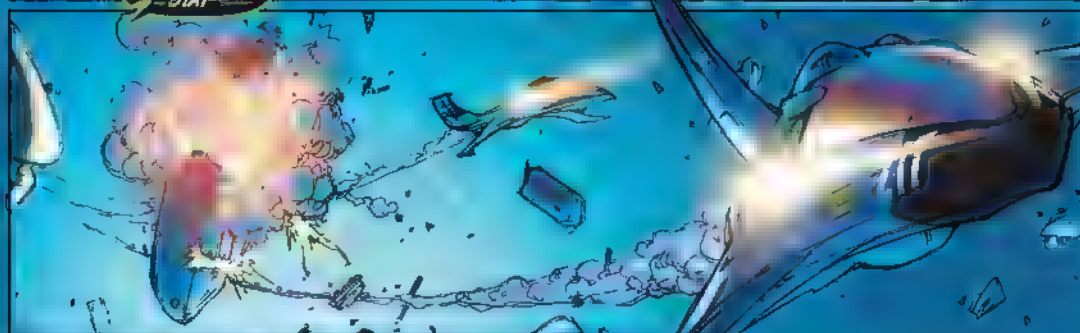
HUNDREDS  
OF SHIPS MUST'VE  
BEEN SWEEP INTO  
THE LAKES WHEN  
THEY...

JESUS,  
JOKER. LOOK  
AT ALL THOSE  
BODIES.

WHAT THE  
HELL DEBRIS IS  
STARTING TO MOVE.  
CURRENTS ARE  
SHIFTING.



DAMMIT,  
STAY CLOSER!  
STAY!

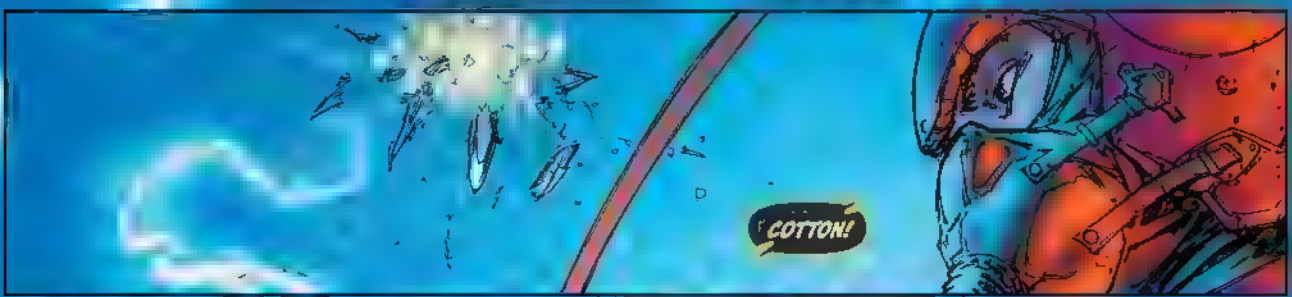




WE JUST  
LOST BIG  
BIRD!

I KNOW.

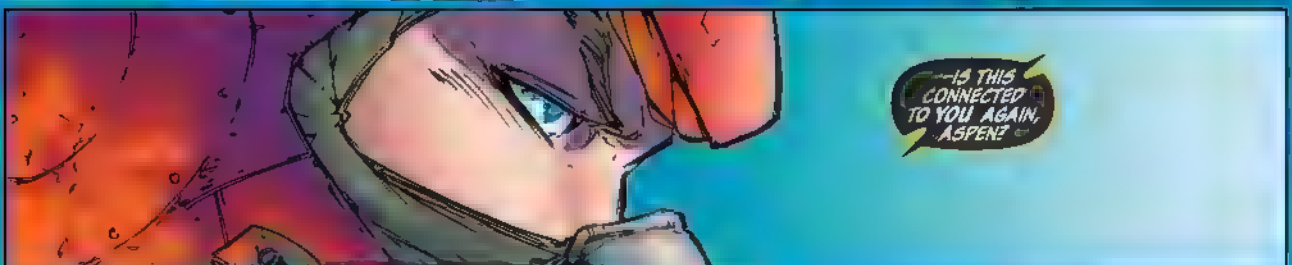
ABORT  
NOW, COTTON.  
HEAD FOR AIR!  
HEAD FOR--



COTTON!



DAMMIT.  
WHAT IS  
THIS



IS THIS  
CONNECTED  
TO YOU AGAIN,  
ASPEN?



IN, JOKER, DO  
YOU READ

I'M HERE,  
DAMMIT.

I'M STILL  
HERE.



WHAT'S  
HAPPENING?

WHY DID  
YOU BRING ME  
HERE?

WHO DID  
THIS?

SHE WON'T STOP  
ASKING QUESTIONS,  
SENZEN.

I THINK I HAVE A  
RIGHT, KIANI. YOU TOLD  
ME I'D LEARN MORE ABOUT  
MY FATHER. WHAT'S THIS  
HAVE TO DO WITH--

THE LAKES RISING  
ARE JUST THE FIRST  
SIGN. THE BEGINNING OF  
A NEW AGE.

ACCORDING  
TO WHO?

OUR... ANCESTORS.  
THE BLACK. A RACE WE  
SPAWNED FROM. A RACE  
THAT LIVES WITHIN THE  
DEEPEST OCEANS, WITHIN  
DARKNESS.

IT HAS BEEN SO  
LONG SINCE THEY  
APPEARED... MANY BELIEVED  
THEM TO BE NOTHING MORE  
THAN A MYTH.

WHAT'S THIS  
HAVE TO DO  
WITH ME?

IT HAS NOTHING  
TO DO WITH YOU. AT  
LEAST NOT YET.

IT HAS TO  
DO WITH YOUR  
FATHER.

HOW DO  
YOU--

IT IS MY JOB  
TO KNOW, CHILD. IT IS  
MY BIRTHRIGHT,  
JUST AS YOURS--

--TO LEAD THIS WORLD  
INTO THE NEXT AGE. WE WILL  
TALK MORE... KIANI. COME.

DOES BRIGHT  
EYES KNOW WHO  
SHE'S TALKING  
TO?

HEH.  
SHE WILL.

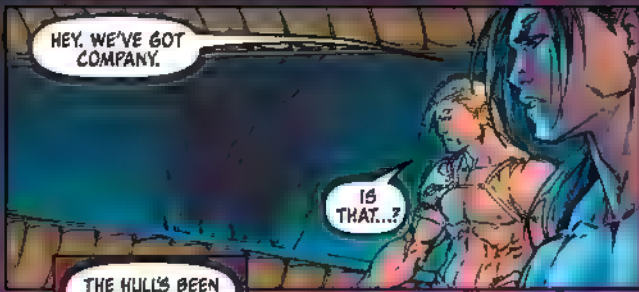
WHY DID YOU  
BRING HER  
HERE--?

TO KEEP THEM  
AT BAY. YOU HAVE  
TO TRUST ME.

I DO.

YOU'RE THE  
ONLY ONE I  
TRUST.

LET'S  
PREPARE  
THE SHIP



THE HULL'S BEEN BREACHED!

I CAN--

I HEAR VOICES. I HEAR--

ASPEN.

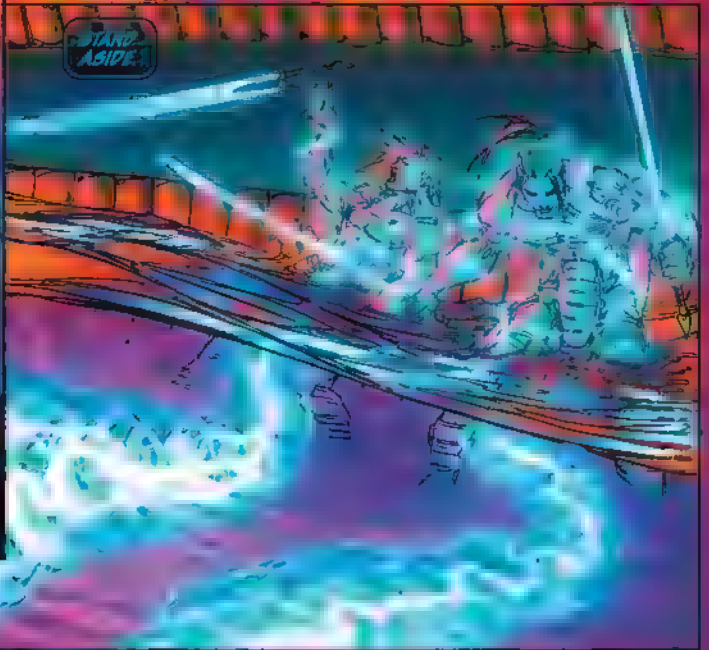
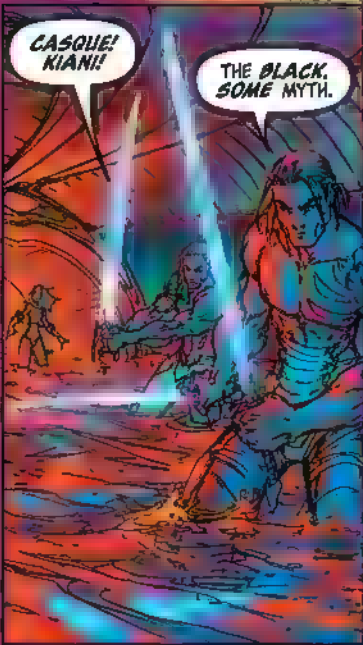


CASQUE!  
KIANI!

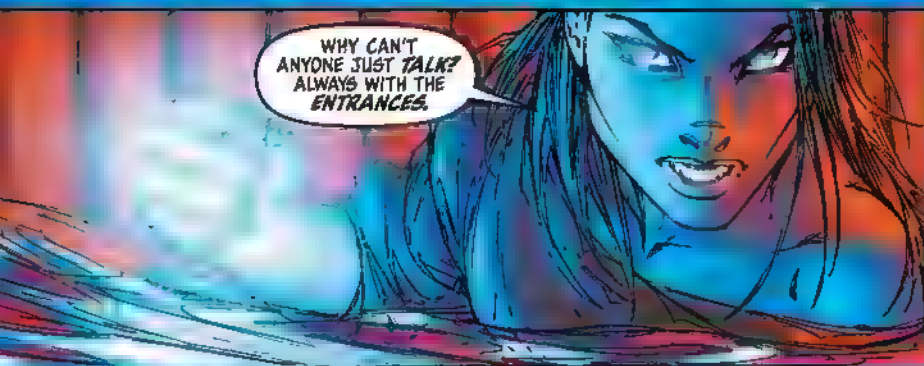
THE BLACK.  
SOME MYTH.

BROTHERS.

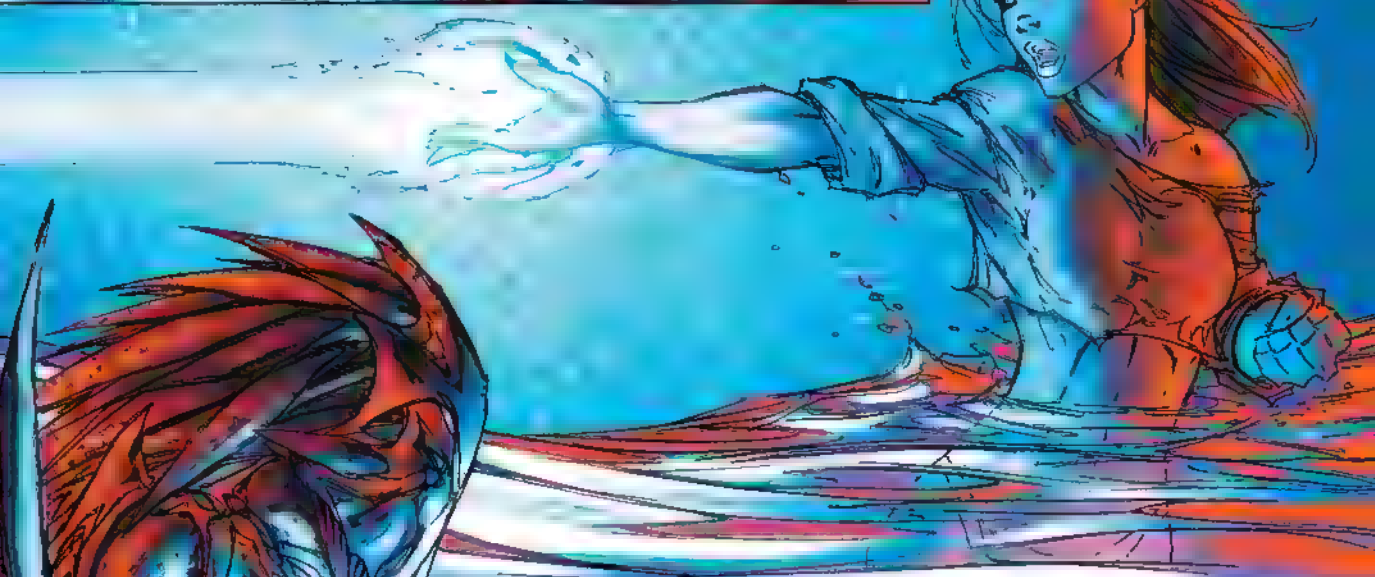
STAND  
ASIDE.







I'M TIRED OF IT!

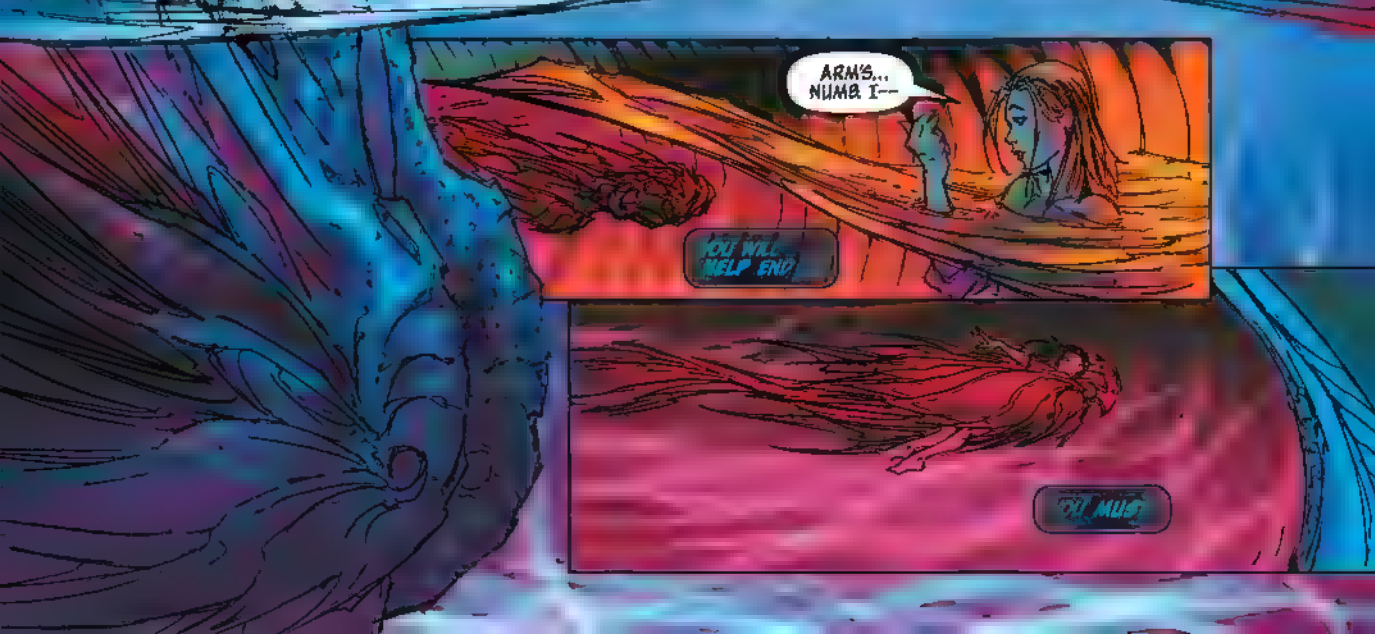


TIRED!

SHOULD NOT KNOW THE MEANING OF THE WORD

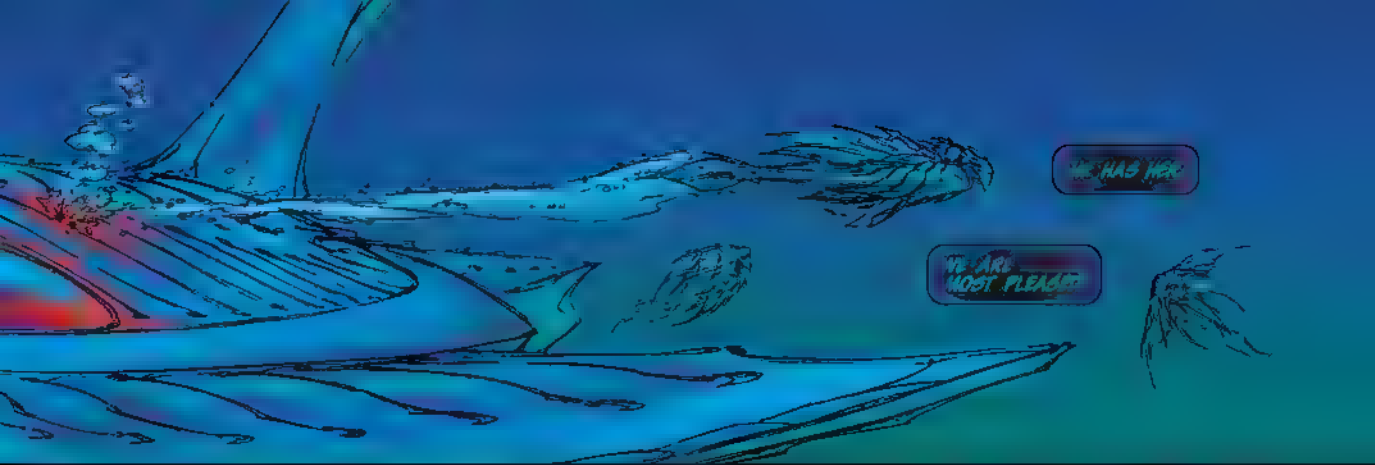


ARE TIRED OF BEING A WORLD ABUSER? ALTERED IT, WILL END.



YOU WILL HELP END

YOU MUST



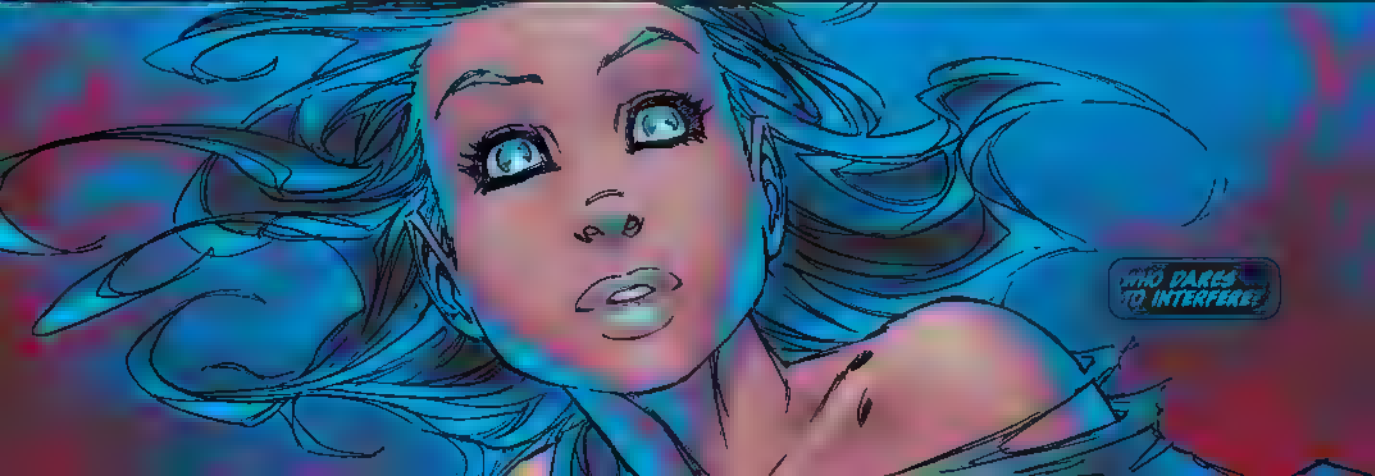
HE HAS HER

WE ARE MOST PLEASED



THEN THE RITUAL  
MAY BEGIN

WOW

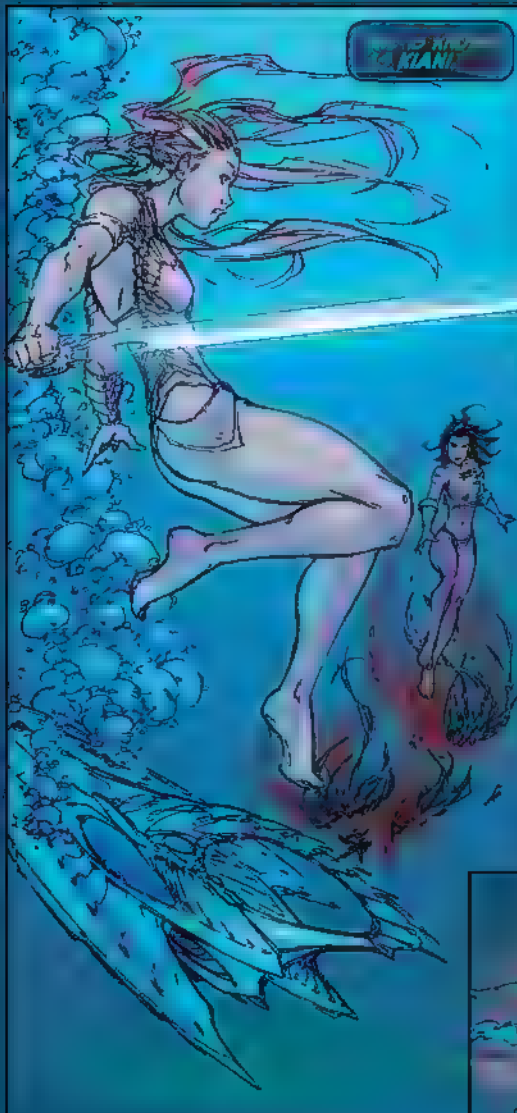


WHO DARES  
TO INTERFERE?



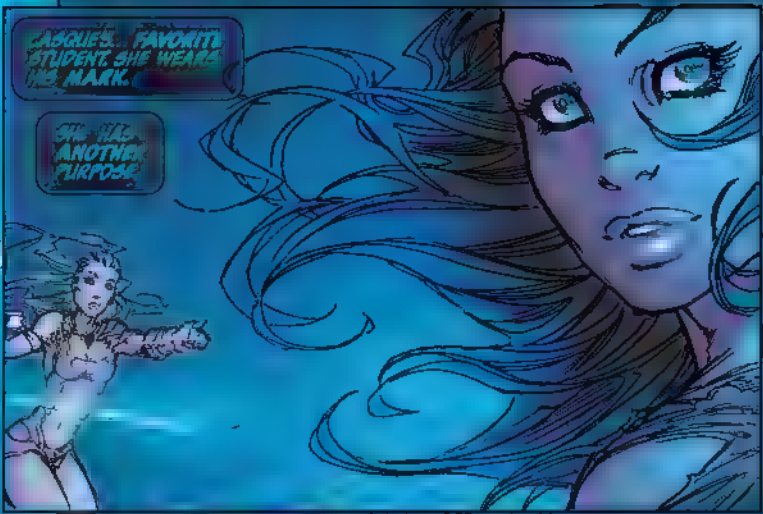


HE IS KING  
KIAN!

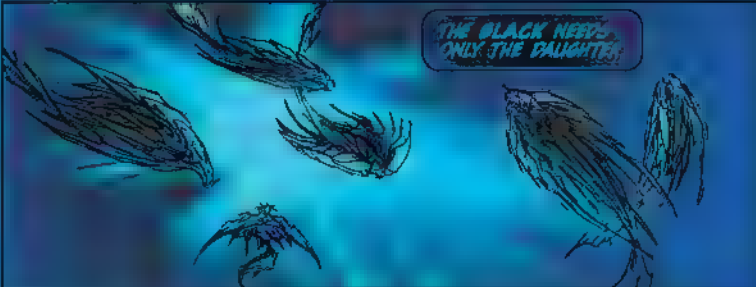


LAGQUEE, FAVORITE  
STUDENT SHE WEARS  
THE MARK.

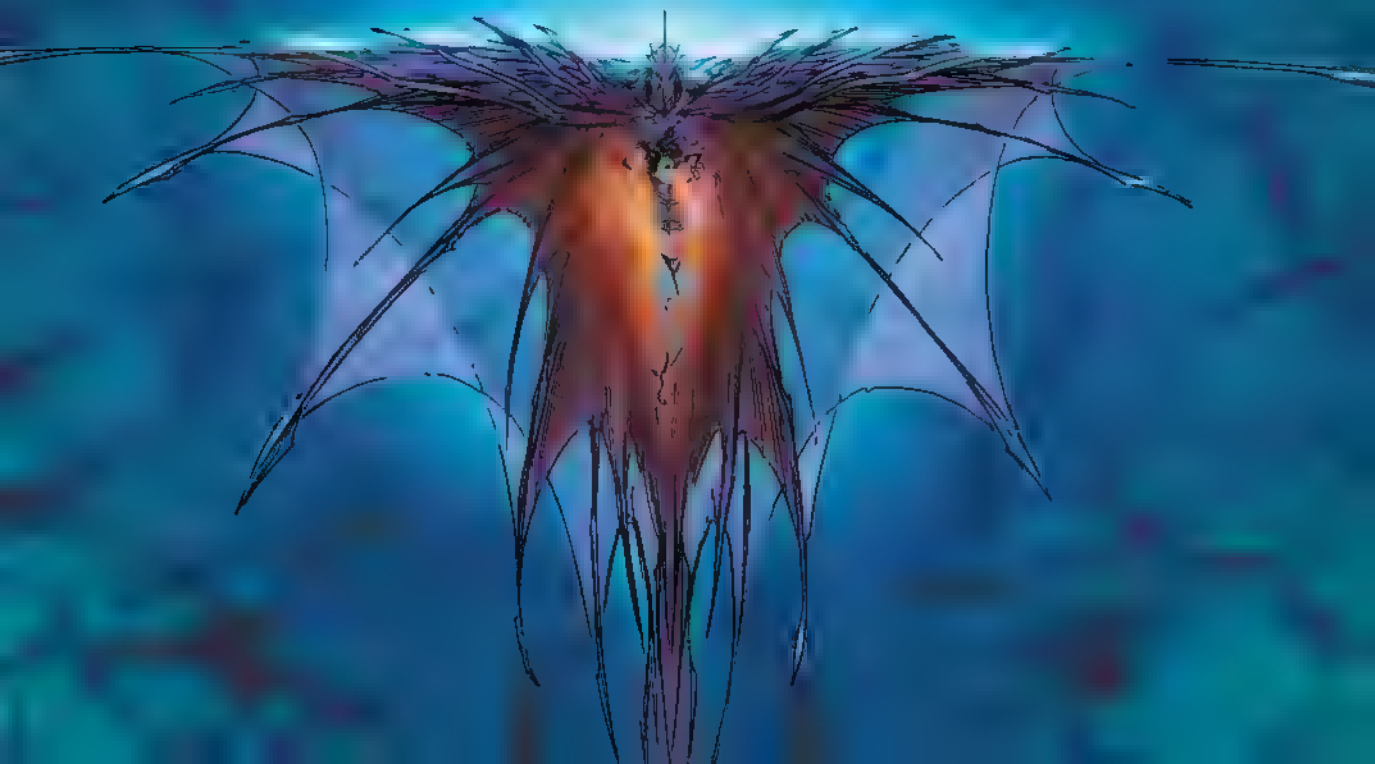
SHE HAS  
ANOTHER  
PURPOSE.



THE BLACK NEEDS  
ONLY THE DAUGHTER.



HE IS KING





DO NOT BE  
FRIGHTENED  
YOUNG ONE

DO NOT  
STRUGGLE

DO NOT  
RENEGE

YOU WILL

EMBRACE

YIP

WE'VE  
KEEP YOU  
IS OURS

STAY OUT OF  
OUR DESTINY

AND WE WILL STAY  
OUT OF YOURS.





--THE LAST SEVERAL HOURS, THE LAKES HAVE CONTINUED TO FALL. THE NUMBER OF CASUALTIES IS STILL UNKNOWN, BUT ALREADY ESTIMATES IN THE THOUSANDS HAVE BEEN MADE.

THE WHITE HOUSE HAS YET TO RESPOND. THOUGH RELIGIOUS FIGURES THROUGHOUT THE NATION AND MUCH OF THE WORLD CONTINUE TO CITE PASSAGE AFTER PASSAGE, PREDICTING THE END OF THE WORLD.

OF COURSE, THE ONLY THING THAT CAN BE SAID WITH ANY SORT OF ASSURANCE--

--IS THAT OUR LIVES WILL NEVER BE THE SAME.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THAT?

TO FRIGHTEN US? TO MAKE A POINT?

WHAT VALUE DOES THAT GIRL HAVE?

THANKS FOR THE LIFT, CASQUE. YOU ALL RIGHT, SIPHON?

SKIN'S STILL COLD I CAN'T FEEL ANYTHING.

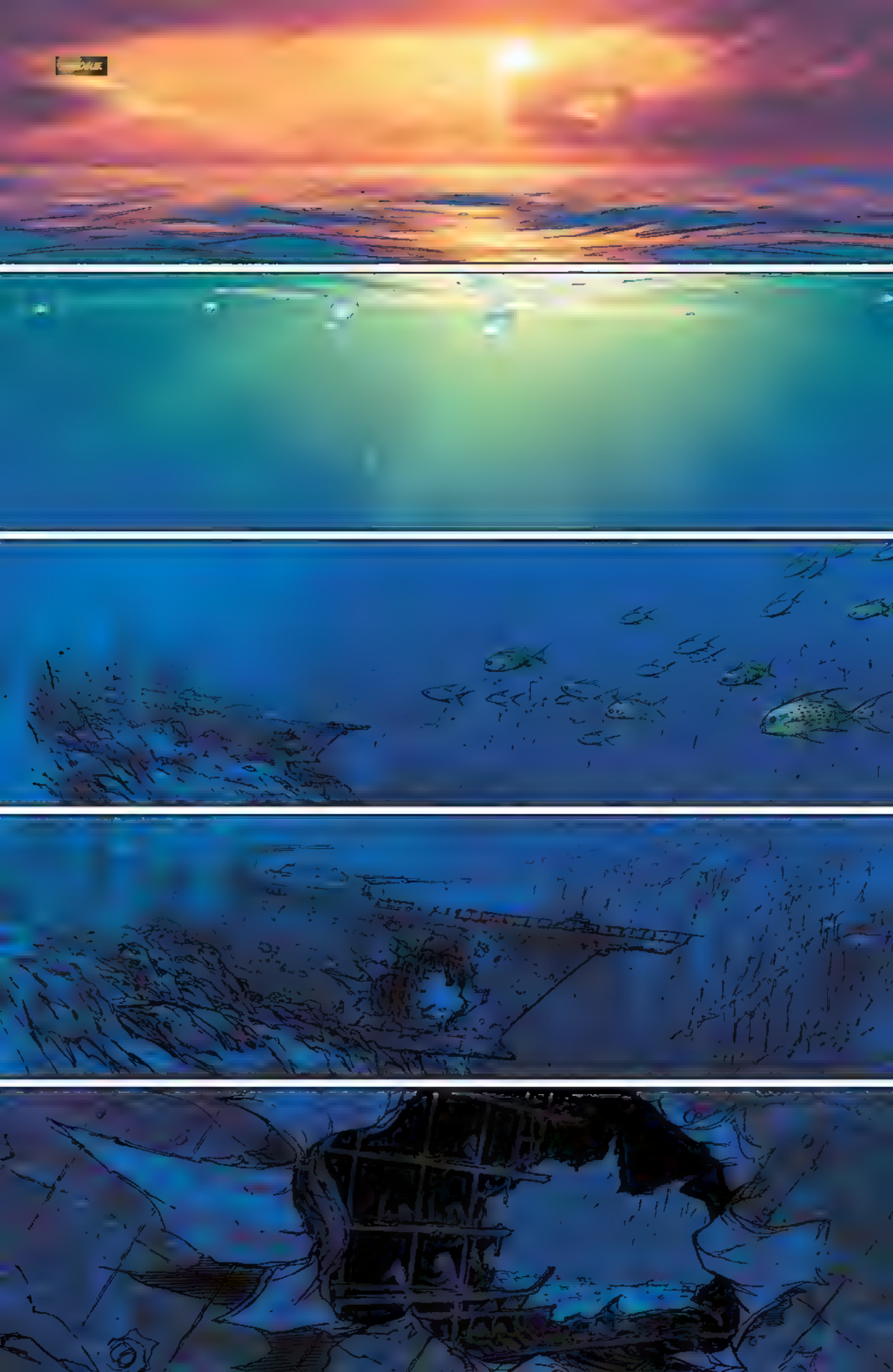
YOU ARE NOT YET READY TO UNDERSTAND KIANI.

YOU'VE BEEN SAYING THE SAME THING TO ME, TO BRANDE, AND SIPHON SINCE WE WERE CHILDREN.

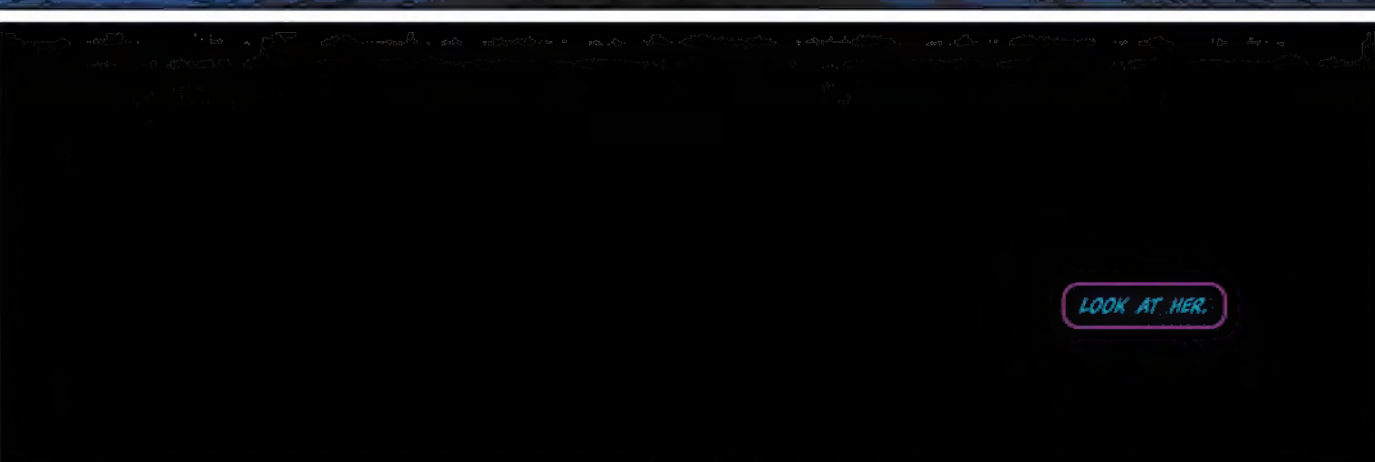
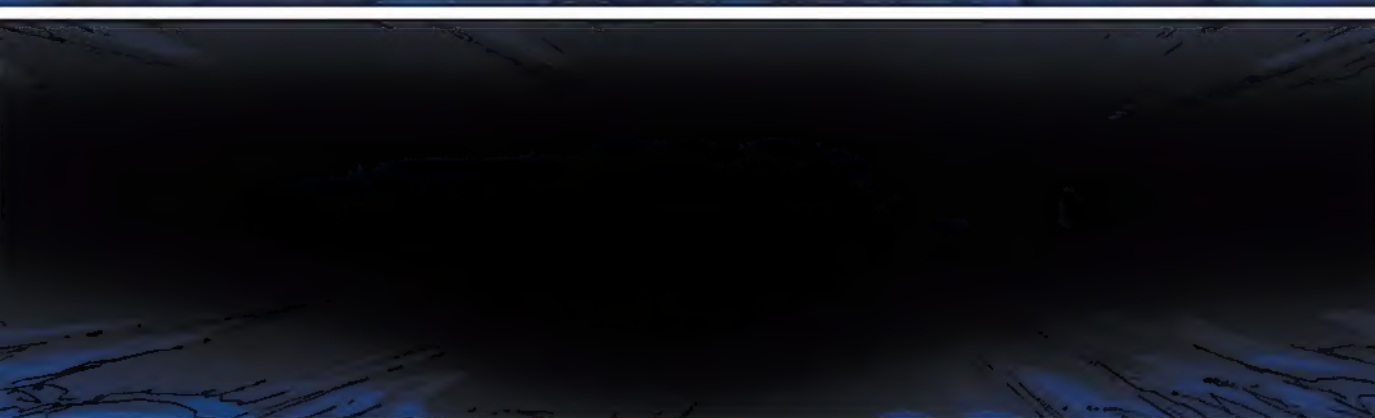
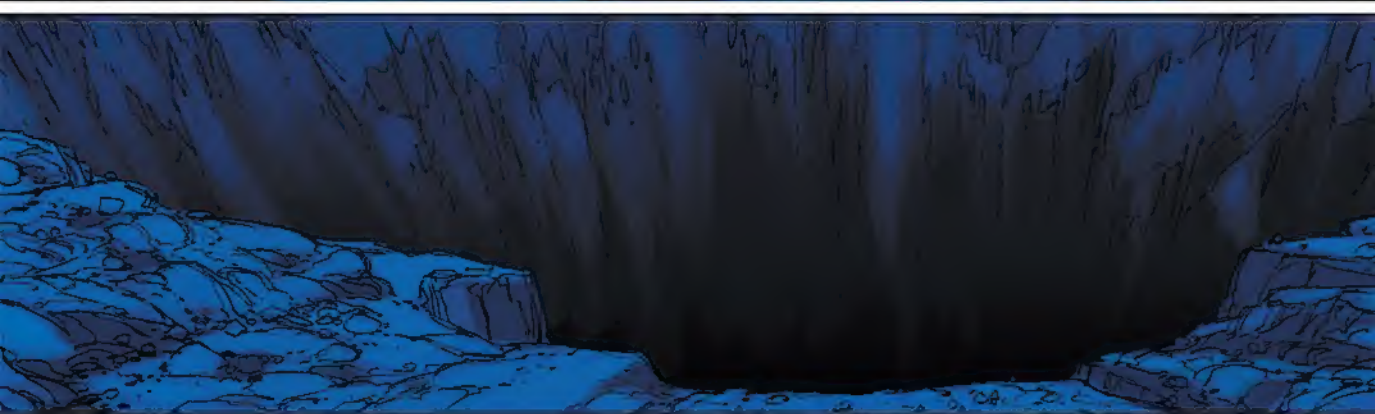
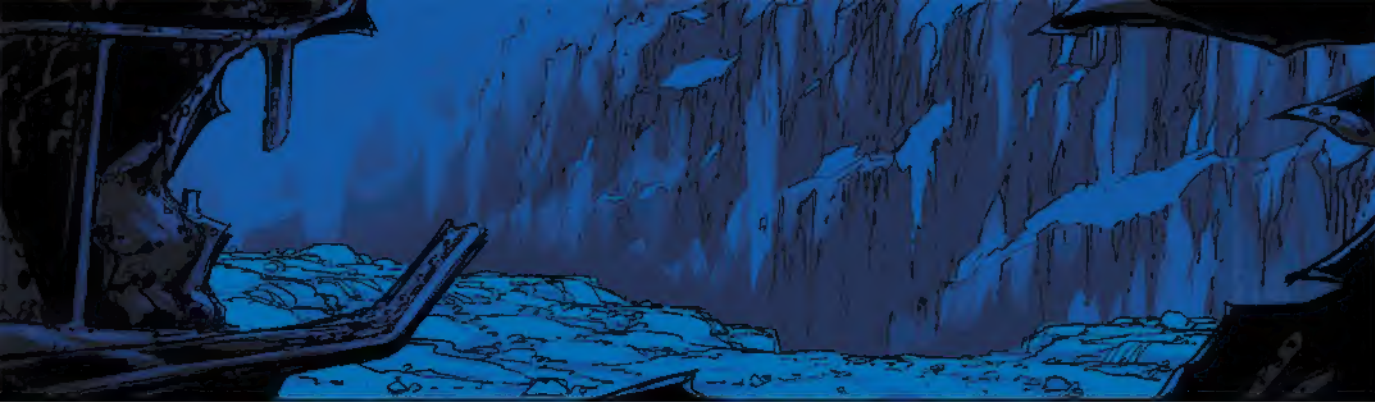
WHEN WILL YOU TELL US OUR PURPOSE?

SOON.

MUCH TOO SOON.







LOOK AT HER.



SHE HAS BEEN  
AWAY TOO LONG.

SHE HAS ALREADY  
CHANGED

THE SURFACE  
POISONED HER.

IT POISONS US ALL.  
IT ALWAYS HAS.

SHE NEEDS  
RECONDITIONING.

SHE NEEDS TO  
BE REBORN.

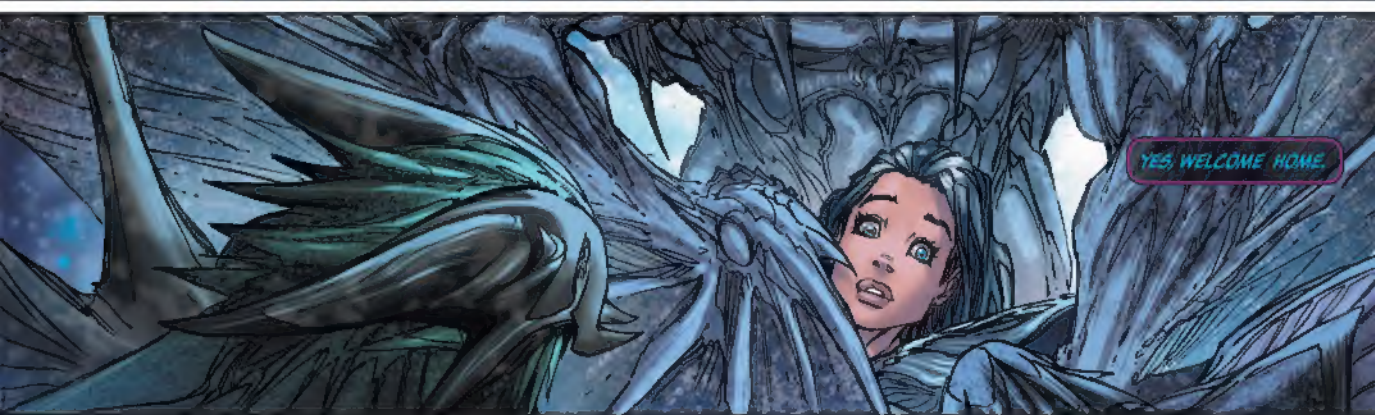
IT HAS  
ALREADY  
BEGUN.

MY CHILD..





WELCOME HOME.



YES, WELCOME HOME.



HOME.



AND FEAR NOT  
ASPEN...



YOU ARE AMONG  
FAMILY.

TO BE CONTINUED IN...  
MICHAEL TURNER'S  
**FATHOM**  
· VOLUME TWO ·  
AVAILABLE NOW